

*W. H. R. Author's Compliments
He regrets not having sent it
earlier.*

THE
ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE
SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE
BOROUGH OF BURY ST. EDMUND'S,
FOR THE YEAR 1894

(January 1st to December 31st inclusive),

BY
JAMES HODGES,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

BURY ST. EDMUND'S:

CATLING, PRINTER, LOWER BAXTER STREET.

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.



TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND COUNCILLORS OF
THE BOROUGH OF BURY ST. EDMUND'S

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the following, as my Report on the sanitary condition of the Borough of Bury St. Edmund's during the year 1894.

MARRIAGES.

The number of Marriages in Bury St. Edmund's during 1894 was 91. The 91 Marriages correspond to a rate of nearly 11 persons married to 1,000 living; the average rate of England and Wales being 14 per 1,000, or thereabouts. Of the 91 Marriages, 70 took place in Churches, viz., 25 in St. Mary's, 20 in St. James', and 25 in St. John's, 10 in Chapels, and 11 before the Registrar.

BIRTHS.

The Births registered in the Borough during the year, were 421 against 392 in 1893. There were 167 Births in St. Mary's Parish, including 10 in the Thingoe Union Workhouse (3 of which the parents belonged outside the Borough, and the whole of which were illegitimate). Of the 167 Births, 86 were males, and 81 females, and of the whole number 21 were illegitimate. In St. James' Parish 254

Births were registered, 138 being males, and 116 females; 9 are returned as illegitimate, making a total of 30 illegitimate children born in the Borough during the year. Deducting the three births that occurred in the Thingoe Union Workhouse of children belonging to other parishes, reduces the number of Births really belonging to the Borough to 418, which corresponds to an annual Birth-rate of 24.27 per 1,000 of the estimated population, viz., 16,807. The rate for last year was 23.23 per 1,000.

MORTALITY.

The total number of Deaths registered in the Borough during the year 1894 from all causes amounted to 264, which, taking the population as estimated above, corresponds to an annual rate of mortality of 15.67 per 1,000 living. Allowing for the Deaths of 21 strangers to the town, in Public Institutions, the number really belonging to the Borough becomes 243, and the Death-rate for the year 14.4 per 1,000 accordingly—a most exceptionally low Death-rate, and about which I shall make a few remarks later on. The Death-rate for the year 1893 was 17.67 per 1,000.

Of the 264 Deaths, 126 occurred in St. Mary's Parish, (including 26 in the Thingoe Union Workhouse, 13 in the Suffolk General Hospital, and 1 in the Isolation Hospital), 67 of which were males, and 59 females. In St. James' Parish there were 138 Deaths, 74 being males, and 64 females. As will be seen from the above, there has only been one Death in the Isolation Hospital during the year; which, considering the number of cases treated there during the early part of the year, must be considered most satisfactory.

The following are the ages at which the Deaths occurred throughout the Borough, during the year, arranged according to Districts:—

	St. Mary's Parish.	St. James' Parish.	Suffolk General Hospital.	Thingoe Union.	Isolation Hospital.	Total.
Deaths under 1 year	19	28	0	3	0	50
Over 1 & under 5 yrs.	5	16	0	1	0	22
„ 5 „ 15 „	5	6	3	0	1	15
„ 15 „ 25 „	4	6	1	1	0	12
„ 25 „ 65 „	25	37	7	6	0	75
„ 65 yrs. & upwards	28	45	2	15	0	90
Total	86	138	13	26	1	264

The number of Deaths during the year from the principal Zymotic Diseases, that is, those that come under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act amounts to four only; 3 being due to Diphtheria, one

occurring in the Isolation Hospital, in St. Mary's Parish, which was removed there from St. James', and 2 in St. James' Parish itself; and one Erysipelas occurring in St. Mary's Parish. The four Deaths due to the above causes, are equivalent to a Zymotic Death-rate of .23 per 1,000, or less than a quarter of a person, the rate last year being .71 per 1,000 and the year before .87 per 1,000, so that there has been a steady decline of this kind of mortality during the past three years.

The following table of Mortality is derived from that required by the Local Government Board; copies of which are forwarded with this report to the Town Clerk, and to the Clerk of the County Council. It may be considered with the previous table of Deaths, according to ages :—

Deaths in Bury St. Edmund's during the year ending December 31st, 1894, classified according to districts, diseases, and ages.

DISEASES	St. Mary's Parish.		Suffolk General Hospital.		Thingoe Union.		St. James' Parish.		Isolation Hospital.	
	under 5 yrs.	over 5 yrs.	under 5 yrs.	over 5 yrs.	under 5 yrs.	over 5 yrs.	under 5 yrs.	over 5 yrs.	under 5 yrs.	over 5 yrs.
Small Pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlatina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1
Membranous Croup ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Typhus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Typhoid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Continued	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Relapsing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cholera	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Whooping-cough ...	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diarrhoea and Dysentery	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rheumatic Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Ague	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phthisis	0	12	0	0	1	2	2	18	0	0
Bronchitis, }	6	9	0	2	0	1	10	10	0	0
Pneumonia, and Pleurisy }										
Heart Disease	0	7	0	0	0	4	0	8	0	0
Injuries	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	0
All other causes ...	16	32	0	6	3	15	31	54	0	0
Totals	24	62	0	13	4	22	44	94	0	1

Total Deaths for the year, 264.

The 50 Deaths of Children under 5 years of age, classified under the head of "All other diseases" may be roughly accounted for by the following diseases :—Convulsions, Premature Birth, Debility from Birth, and the wasting diseases of Infants.

Of the 107 Deaths of Persons above 5 years from "All other diseases," a great many were those of aged people, and none have any bearing whatever on the public health of the Borough

INFANT MORTALITY.

There were 50 Deaths of Infants under one year, 22 being in St. Mary's Parish, including 3 in the Thingoe Union Workhouse, and 28 in St. James,' which gives a percentage of 18.9 per cent. of the total number of Deaths. The rate of infant mortality, however, is usually measured by its proportion to the number of Births in the same year, namely 421, and it will then be found to be 11.87. per cent.; the rate for last year being 17.11 per cent.

AGED PERSONS.

The Deaths of persons above the age of 65 years reached the number of 90, or 34.09 per cent. of the total deaths of the year. Of these, 3 were of persons of 90 years and upwards, the greatest age recorded being 95 years; 23 of 80 years and under 90; and 44 between 70 and 80 years, the majority of which were nearer 80 than 70, so that no less than 70 out of the 90 persons who died over 65 years of age were considerably over 70 years.

INQUESTS.

During the year there were six Inquests held in the Borough, the causes of Death being attributed in each case as follows:—1 due to Natural Causes; 2 Suicide during Temporary Insanity; and 3 Accidental. There were eight Deaths registered as uncertified, about which no Inquests were held, all except one, being of Infants, the causes of Death being attributed either to Premature Birth, or Convulsions, and the other a case of Apoplexy.

ZYMOTIC SICKNESS IN THE BOROUGH DURING THE YEAR.

During the year there have been 111 cases certified under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 145 being the number for the previous year, showing a diminution of 34. Of these, 61 were Scarlet Fever, 14 Diphtheria (curiously, exactly the same number as in 1893), 3 Typhoid Fever; 1 Continued Fever; and 32 Erysipelas. During the first three quarters of the year, the town was exceptionally free from Measles not a single case coming under my notice during that time: but just at the end of the year, when the Elementary Schools were all breaking up for the Christmas Holidays a considerable outbreak occurred, commencing in St. James' Parish and gradually extending to St. Mary's. The majority of the cases were, I am glad to say, of a mild type, only one death being attributed to this disease during the year.

Scarlet Fever.—61 cases. Of the 61 cases of Scarlet Fever, 39 (including one in the Suffolk General Hospital) occurred in St. Mary's Parish and 22 in St. James'. As will be seen in the subjoined table of Patients, admitted into the Isolation Hospital during the year, the great majority of these cases occurred during the first four months and were the result of the somewhat serious outbreak we had at the end of the

previous year, and at a time when this disease was very prevalent all through the country ; 55 out of the 61 cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, there being no means of properly isolating them in their own homes, and by this means we were enabled to prevent the outbreak developing into an epidemic, which at one time it threatened to do. The greater number of cases were of a comparatively mild type, there not being a single death attributed to Scarlet Fever during the year.

Diphtheria.—14 cases. As I have mentioned above, there were 14 cases of Diphtheria during the year, 5 of which occurred in St. Mary's Parish and the remainder in St. James'. The whole of them were sporadic cases, occurring at different times of the year, and having no connection with one another. Three cases only ended fatally, all of which belonged to St. James' Parish, but one occurring in the Isolation Hospital.

Typhoid Fever.—3 cases. During the year, three cases of this disease have been notified, all of which occurred in St. James' Parish, and at the time that the new main sewer was being laid in the several localities and the house drains connected therewith, so that I think the cause must be thus attributed. All these cases happily ended in recovery. In the previous year 2 cases were notified.

Continued Fever.—1 case. There was only one case of this Fever notified during the whole year, and it ended in recovery.

Erysipelas —32 cases. During the year, 32 cases of Erysipelas were notified, 16 (including 2 in the Suffolk General Hospital, and 1 in the Thingoe Union Workhouse) occurring in St. Mary's Parish, and the same number in St. James'. The whole were idiopathic in nature and there was only one death. Last year 46 cases were notified.

THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The year 1894, has again proved the benefit the Isolation Hospital, with its increased accommodation, is to the town, no less than 57 cases having been isolated there, 31 of which occurred during the first four months of the year, the majority of which came from crowded neighbourhoods, where no means of any isolation whatever were possible, and which, therefore, had it not been for the accommodation thus provided, must have proved a grave source of anxiety to the Sanitary Authority. I should here like to mention that in my opinion as Medical Officer of Health, the *Sanitary* Hospital as it has been called, (or, as the Local Government Board name such establishments, the *Isolation* Hospital), as at present constituted, is intended for the reception of those cases which cannot be perfectly isolated in their own homes, and not for all and every case that may occur, as some people seem to think, for if such were the case I am afraid that we should very soon find our accommodation not in any way sufficient. The following list, drawn up by the Sanitary Inspector, shows the number of cases admitted into the Hospital, and the result during the year:—

Return of Patients admitted to Sanitary Hospital during 1894.

Date of Admission. 1894.	Sex.	Age.	Disease.	Class of Patient.	Result.	Date of Discharge.
Jan. 4	F.	10	Scarlet Fever	Private	Cured	February 3
" 6	F.	20	Scarlet Fever	Private	Cured	February 3
" 16	M.	5	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	March 7
" 17	M.	10	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	March 6
" 19	M.	1yr. 9m.	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	March 2
" 19	M.	26	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	March 5
" 20	M.	11	Diphtheria	Urb. San.	Died	February 3
" 25	M.	9	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	March 5
" 29	M.	16	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	March 8
" 30	F.	4	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	March 17
Feb. 2	F.	13	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	March 27
" 2	M.	11	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	March 17
" 6	M.	21	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	March 29
" 7	M.	8	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	March 23
" 17	F.	7	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	March 29
" 18	M.	8	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	April 11
" 18	M.	5	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	April 11
" 18	M.	5	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	March 29
" 20	F.	8	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	April 5
" 23	F.	5	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	April 5
" 26	M.	3	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	April 3
" 26	M.	5	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	April 21
Mar. 5	F.	28	Scarlet Fever	Private	Cured	April 9
" 5	M.	9	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	April 11
" 6	F.	24	Scarlet Fever	Private	Cured	April 11
" 10	M.	6	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	April 23
" 10	M.	8	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	April 27
" 13	M.	7	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	April 17
" 16	F.	6	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	April 24
" 23	M.	8	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	May 12
" 23	F.	6	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	April 30
April 2	M.	5	Scarlet Fever	Private	Cured	May 23
" 7	F.	22	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	June 2
" 7	F.	19	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	May 12
" 9	F.	9	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	May 29
" 9	F.	7	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	May 24
" 16	F.	26	Scarlet Fever	Private	Cured	May 23
" 28	F.	9	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	June 14
" 28	F.	9	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	June 14
" 28	M.	2	Scarlet Fever	Private	Cured	May 23
May 1	F.	15	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	June 19
" 1	M.	11	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	June 14
" 1	M.	4	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	June 1
" 2	M.	6	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	June 14
" 5	F.	12	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	June 14
" 5	M.	24	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	June 7
" 20	F.	10	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	July 6
" 21	F.	4	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	June 19
" 26	M.	7	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	July 6
June 6	F.	24	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	July 9
July 21	F.	7	Diphtheria	Urb. San.	Cured	August 1
" 24	F.	6	Scarlet Fever	Private	Cured	August 31
" 29	M.	14	Scarlet Fever	Private	Cured	August 27
Sept. 5	M.	6	Scarlet Fever	Private	Cured	September 17
" 6	F.	8	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	November 5
" 30	M.	10	Scarlet Fever	Private	Cured	November 16
Oct. 3	M.	11	Scarlet Fever	Private	Cured	November 17

There were thus, as I have stated above, no less than 57 cases treated in the Isolation Hospital during the year ; 55 of which were Scarlet Fever, some of which were of a very serious nature, with, not a single death ; and two cases of Diphtheria, one of which was fatal. I think, therefore, that Mrs. Duell, the head Nurse, deserves every praise for the care and attention she bestows on the Patients. On December 31st there was not a single case in the Hospital, and had not been since November 17th.

THE SANITARY CONDITION OF THE TOWN.

The general sanitary condition of the Borough during the year 1894 must be considered extremely good, for with the exception of the Scarlet Fever cases at the early part of the year, and which, as I have mentioned above, were a continuance of the outbreak at the end of the previous year, there has been very little sickness indeed affecting the general health of the town. This is especially so when we come to consider our extraordinarily low death rate, viz., 14.4 per 1,000 of the population. This fact, I think, cannot be made too much of in the present state of agricultural depression, when we are endeavouring to make our town residentially as attractive as possible. It ought, also, if properly advertised, to prove an inducement to parents at a distance to send their children to the various excellent Schools we have in the Borough.

It is with feelings of great satisfaction that I have to report the completion of the main drainage of the town, which has been in progress during the past two years, a general description of which appeared in my last Annual Report.

The sewerage system, as carried out, embraces almost the entire inhabited Borough, and includes some eight miles of main sewers, all laid, where practicable, at such a depth as to drain basements where necessary.

The inspection of house drainage has been systematically carried out from the commencement to the completion of the work, with the result that 350 house drains have been condemned and new drainage enforced. In all, 893 connections have been made ; and here I may remark that I have noticed with satisfaction the wholesale abolition of cesspools, also that many already disused dead wells have been filled with the spoil from the sewer trench.

The main ventilation has progressed towards completion, and I understand that 100 shafts have been erected. This system, which has been thoroughly carried out, must recommend itself as very vastly superior (from every sanitary point of view) to that of ventilation at the road surface. I notice, however, that certain streets are not so thoroughly ventilated as the majority. This, I understand, is due to the difficulty in some instances of obtaining permission from property owners for the necessary shaft attachments. It is to be hoped that these difficulties are

not unsurmountable, and that this excellent system carried thus far, will shortly be effectually completed.

I would again direct particular attention to the ventilation of existing house drains. Much has been done in this direction, but many still remain unventilated, which must of necessity be a source of danger to the occupants. I feel, therefore, that I cannot too strongly urge this highly important sanitary precaution before your notice.

The Bake Houses, 40 in number, were all inspected by myself in June, and by the Sanitary Inspector in December, and they were all found exceedingly clean and well-kept.

The 20 Licensed Slaughter Houses were inspected at intervals during the year, and found to be clean and kept in good order.

The Cowsheds have been inspected by the Borough Surveyor, and Veterinary Surgeon, who have reported them as being in a satisfactory condition.

There has been an abundant supply of good wholesome meat and food generally, only one case of unsound fish being exposed for sale coming under my notice, in which case the fish were immediately seized and destroyed, the vendor afterwards being summoned before the Magistrates, and convicted.

During the year, several samples of Butter and other articles of food have been taken for analysis under the Food and Drugs' Act. Every sample with the exception of one (and that was marked "Doubtful" only) was found to be of excellent quality.

The three Licensed Lodging Houses were inspected at intervals by Superintendent Clarke, and reported to me as being clean and well-kept, and the provisions of the Lodging House Act having been duly complied with.

SUMMARY.

The following Table contains an abstract of particulars taken from the Inspector's Books, and contains a summary in brief of the practical Sanitary Work of the year :—

ABSTRACT OF CASES

Entered in the Books of the Inspector for the year 1894.

Number of complaints received during the year	96
Number of houses and premises inspected .. .	2000
RESULTS OF INSPECTION.	
Houses and premises cleansed, repaired, and whitewashed	40
Houses disinfected after infectious diseases	80
Number of articles of clothing and bedding disinfected at the disinfecting chamber	1050
DEFECTIVE DRAINS, &C.	
House drains, cesspools, &c., repaired, cleansed, trapped, or ventilated	250
PRIVIES AND WATER CLOSETS.	
Repaired, cleansed, &c.	85
New privies provided	0
Supplied with water... ..	20
MANURE BINS, ASHPITS, &C	
Removal of accumulations of manure, animal and other refuse ...	105
WATER SUPPLY.	
Number of cases in which water has been condemned and fresh supply provided	8
Wells cleaned out	1
BAKE HOUSES.	
There are at the present time 40 Bake Houses in the Borough, which have been inspected at intervals during the year, and on the whole found clean and well kept	40
MILK AND FOOD SUPPLY	
No report as to unsound Meat has reached me during the year, and I consider the Meat supply in general is of excellent quality.	
Numbers of samples of Milk were taken from milk sellers in various parts of the town, and submitted to test, and found of excellent quality	
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.	
During the year Eleven samples of Butter were taken from the various Grocers in the Borough and submitted to the Public Analyst. In ten cases it was pronounced of good quality, and one "doubtful." In this case no proceedings were taken, the Vendor being cautioned.	11
Two samples of Coffee and two of Pepper were also taken and submitted to the Public Analyst, and pronounced good.	4
FISH SUPPLY.	
During the year there has been a good supply of Fish, especially Mackerel, but on the 15th of May a quantity were seized by the Inspector from a barrow, being hawked in Cemetery Road, which were pronounced by the Medical Officer of Health as unfit for human food and destroyed, the Vendor being brought before the Magistrates and fined £1 18s. 6d., or fourteen days' imprisonment.	

ABSTRACT OF CASES (*continued*).

MISCELLANEOUS.								
Number of Lodging Houses registered under Clause 76 of the Public Health Act, 1875								3
Over-crowding reduced								3
Removal of Animals improperly kept								13
Licensed Slaughter Houses inspected at intervals								20
Various cases of sickness, &c., brought under the notice of the Sanitary Authority, and steps taken to remove them to the Sanitary Hospital								
Cases of Small-pox								0
Scarlet Fever								55
Typhoid Fever								0
Diphtheria								2
Cholera								0
Membranous Croup								0
Erysipelas								0
Typhus Fever								0
Puerperal Fever								0
Legal proceedings								1
ROBERT KERRAGE,								
<i>Inspector of Nuisances for the Borough of Bury St. Edmund's.</i>								

In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks to Mr. J. Campbell Smith, for the information with which he supplied me relative to the completion of the new Sewerage Works.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES HODGES, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., A.K.C., Lond.

Fellow of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health.

Bury St. Edmund's,

January 30th, 1895.

